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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

1. At its 15th meeting, on 10 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 7)). The Committee also had before it a summary of the action taken and planned following the review of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017, as reflected in a conference room paper (E/AC.51/2014/CRP.1).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation and continued support for the programme and the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

4. Regarding paragraph 7.1, delegations expressed concern at the deletion of the words "eradication of poverty and hunger", which had appeared in the previous biennial programme. In that regard, it was pointed out that the eradication of poverty had been included as one of the key objectives of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future

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we want", as had other essential goals relating to the eradication of poverty and hunger.

5. Regarding paragraph 7.4, clarification was sought as to how the functions of the Department had been carried out in the biennium 2014-2015, including the fostering of collaboration and partnerships within the United Nations system and with civil society and the private sector. Questions were raised as to the approach taken by the Secretariat in promoting cooperation and partnerships and to which expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement the functions related. Clarification was also sought as to whether the engagement of the United Nations with civil society included businesses, as part of the mandate. The view was expressed that the functions defined in the previous biennial programme plan should be maintained.

6. Regarding paragraph 7.6, delegations noted the absence of any reference to consultation efforts in relation to the mainstreaming of gender perspectives. Clarification was sought as to whether consultations had led to a specific vision of how the programme should be implemented in the biennium 2016-2017.

7. Clarification was sought regarding the application of regulation 4.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation in servicing the intergovernmental process. Questions were raised on the issue of uniformity in that regard and on what the Secretariat had done to ensure coherence in the activities of the United Nations.

8. Clarification was sought under subprogramme 1 on how to measure indicator of achievement (a) (i) and what had been done to achieve expected accomplishment (a). Delegations noted that, in paragraph 7.7 (i), the strategy focused on conflict issues; it was, however, pointed out that no reference had been made to the Peacebuilding Commission.

9. Regarding the strategy contained in paragraph 7.9, it was suggested that the words "disaster prevention" be replaced by the words "disaster risk reduction".

10. Clarification was sought regarding the wording of the objective under subprogramme 3 and the absence of any reference to poverty eradication. The view was expressed that emphasis should be given to poverty eradication because that objective was considered the anchor of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and that activities carried out in that regard should have significant interaction with intergovernmental bodies. Questions were raised as to whether the post-2015 development agenda would be based on the Millennium Development Goals. Delegations also questioned the changes made in expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, as compared with those for the biennium 2014-2015.

11. Clarification was sought regarding the inclusion of one particular group of countries and the reason for not including all developing countries, as reflected in expected accomplishment (c) under subprogramme 3. Delegations also questioned the lack of reference to middle-income countries and pointed out that the strategy of the Department in enhancing the capacity of developing countries, including those in special situations, should be taken into account.

12. Questions were raised as to the expectations of the Department regarding the implementation of the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and how they related to the synergies and structure of the Secretariat.

13. More detailed information was sought regarding the voluntary country reviews, as reflected in indicator of achievement (c) (i) under subprogramme 3, and the changes to the programme based on the science-policy interface approach reflected in expected accomplishment (d).

14. Clarification was sought regarding the changes to the strategy under subprogramme 3. Questions were raised regarding the view of the Secretariat in paragraph 7.9 (d) in relation to disaster prevention and the absence of any reference to strengthening cooperation with major groups. Clarification was also sought as to the relevance of the information and reports provided to Member States on partnerships and voluntary commitments, as reflected in paragraph 7.9 (h). Questions were raised concerning the availability of the reports, in particular those on partnerships, and what had been done by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in providing access to Member States.

15. The view was expressed that the work of the Department and its related activities should be carried out in close coordination with the regional commissions and other relevant entities in order to ensure complementarity and synergy with regional partners. It was pointed out that, under subprogramme 4, more detailed information should be provided on activities carried out with the regional commissions. Clarification was sought regarding the progress made in strengthening the geospatial information system.

16. Delegations expressed concern regarding the impression given in expected accomplishment (a) of subprogramme 5 that the issue of demographic phenomena focused on the ageing population. It was emphasized that the concept of gender dimensions of demographic phenomena should include the young population and be addressed in the programme of work.

17. Delegations questioned the absence in subprogramme 9 of any reference to the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and clarification was sought regarding the preparatory work to be considered in relation to such follow-up. Questions were also raised regarding the kind of work involved and anticipated in expected accomplishment (d), on the strengthened role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation in tax matters.

Conclusions and recommendations

18. **The Committee stressed the importance of the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in fostering collaboration and partnerships within the United Nations system and with civil society and the private sector, within agreed mandates.**

19. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 7.4

After the existing text of function (d), insert ", while ensuring proper accountability and oversight by Member States".

Subprogramme 3
Sustainable development

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (c) (i), delete the words ", including through voluntary country reviews to the high-level political forum on sustainable development".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.9

In subparagraph (a), insert the phrase "the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and", before the words "small island developing States".

In subparagraph (d), replace the words "disaster prevention" with the words "disaster risk reduction".

Subprogramme 4
Statistics

Strategy

Paragraph 7.10

At the end of subparagraph (e), add the words ", upon request".

Subprogramme 5
Population

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), replace the words "including sex-disaggregated data for use by Member States" with the words "sex- and age-disaggregated data for use by Member States".

Subprogramme 9
Financing for development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (d), replace the phrase "Strengthened role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation in tax matters," with the phrase "Increased contribution by the United Nations in promoting international cooperation in tax matters,".